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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

[Kim Tanaka](#), Executive Analyst - Office of the Governor, 360-902-4110

[Ryan Pinto](#), Director - DSHS Office of Juvenile Justice, 360-902-0821

[Bonnie Glenn](#), Special Assistant for Juvenile Justice Policy, 360-902-7796

## **Washington State accepting applications for new state juvenile justice advisory group**

**OLYMPIA** – The Governor’s Office is now accepting applications to serve on the new State Advisory Group, “the Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice.”

The Partnership Council is seeking applications from leaders in the juvenile justice system who have extensive experience and knowledge in juvenile justice and are able to affect or influence system reform. The membership will also include youth representation, to ensure the youth voice is included in the reform effort.

Washington state is embarking on a new approach to advance juvenile justice system reform. Through the strength of shared responsibility and leadership, the Partnership Council will collaborate with key decision-makers from state, local and tribal governments and non-profit organizations to work on important issues to include:

- Providing support for its members in influencing the implementation of innovative reforms and best practices within their communities and organizations;
- Enhancing multi-system collaboration and coordination among juvenile justice, child welfare, education, mental health and related systems in which Washington’s children, youth and families are involved;
- Ensuring that across Washington state, evidence-based and promising practices are replicated and administered in a culturally competent manner that adheres to program fidelity;
- Recommending and influencing the adoption and implementation of system reforms and best practices to improve Washington’s compliance with the core requirements of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; and
- Developing recommendations for innovative juvenile justice reform, best practices, quality improvement, and accountability and strategies for their implementation in the systems and communities from which the members come.

The Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice will be convened by the Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services and chaired by a gubernatorial appointee. Its members will assume a pro-active role, providing collaborative leadership and direction, recommending innovative juvenile justice reforms and evidence-based and promising programs for implementation.

DSHS Secretary Susan N. Dreyfus is committed to innovative leadership and reform in juvenile justice and encourages juvenile justice leaders to apply to the Partnership Council. "I look forward to partnering with juvenile justice leaders from across Washington as we embark upon a new approach to advancing juvenile justice system reform," Secretary Dreyfus said. "I encourage juvenile justice leaders to apply and join us as we leverage resources and services to better serve our youth and families."

The composition of the Partnership Council will be in compliance with federal requirements and will retain the federally mandated responsibilities of a State Advisory Group, implementing the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and administering related federal and state funding.

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:**

Interested individuals should apply to the Washington State Governor's Office on Boards and Commissions at: <http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/application/default.asp>. Deadline for applications is 5 p.m. Friday, June 4, 2010. There is no application fee.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Go to [www.dshs.wa.gov/gjjac](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/gjjac)

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